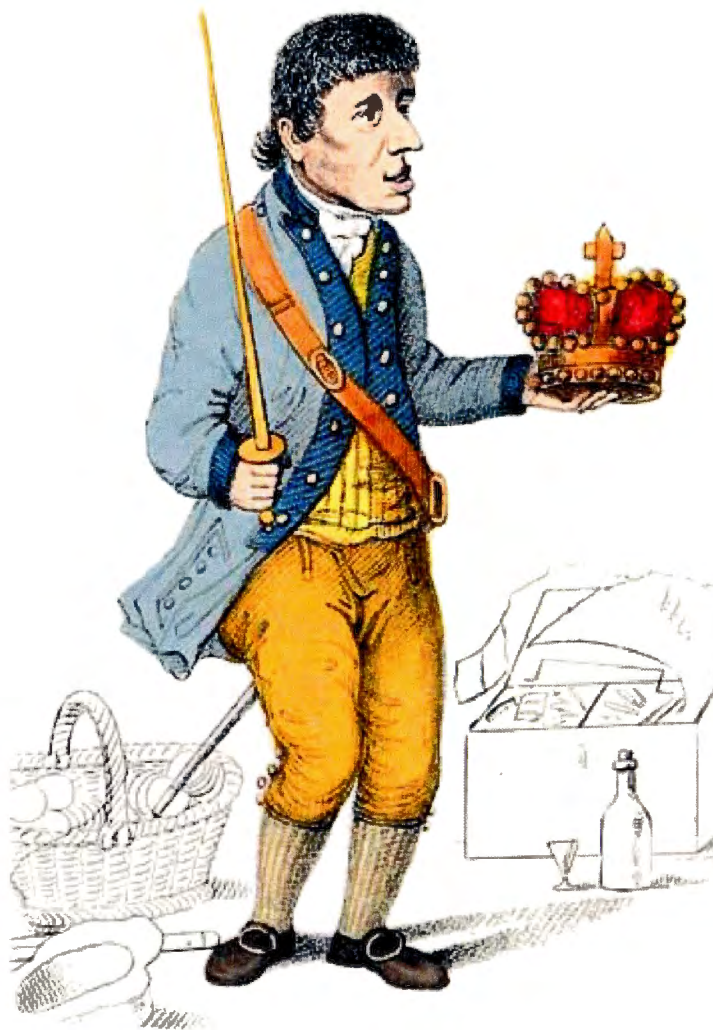


THE “*CONDER*” TOKEN

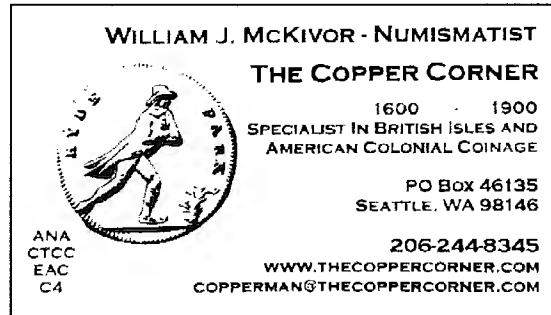
COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR'S CLUB

Volume X Number 3 Fall, 2005 Consecutive Issue #37



**“SIR” HARRY DIMSDALE
MAYOR OF GARRAT
1796**



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Ang 99 AR by Gary Siro

INTRODUCTION

MICHAEL GROGAN

CLUB ELECTIONS

The deadline for candidates to announce their intention to run for club office was September 1st, as published in the last three Journal issues. Since all current club officers were unopposed they will remain in office for another two year term. Current officers are: President-Gregg Moore, Vice President US-Harold Welch, Vice President International-John Whitmore, and Treasurer-Scott Loos. Contact information for all club officers and appointees is published in each issue of the Journal.

MEMBER MEDALS IN SILVER AND GILT

The 2005 medals are also available in silver proof and gilt proof in very limited quantities at \$25 each postpaid. Medals should be reserved with Harold Welch and payment sent to Scott Loos. Only 25 silver and 15 gilt medals were produced and a sellout is expected so place your order early to avoid disappointment.

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

As Conder token collectors we are often very interested in the background and history of our collection. Learning about the details of late eighteenth century life is a great supplement to studying the tokens themselves. If you have recently read an interesting book or article relevant to tokens of the period, share it with other club members. Consider writing a full book review or a simple paragraph summary for the Journal.

THE SPENCE COLLECTION, PART TWO

In late September DNW auctioned part two of this famous collection. Many CTCC members bid in the auction or attended in person. Peter Preston-Morley provides a detailed report on the auction results in this issue.

ARTICLES NEEDED

As always, your original article is needed for the Journal. You need not be a Conder scholar to contribute and become a published author. I will be delighted to help any member begin or polish an article.....that is what an Editor does! In addition to the pleasures of writing the article, contributors to each issue receive a special edition full color cover on their copy of the Journal.

ON THE COVER

A muffin seller named Henry Dimsdale was elected Mayor of Garrat in 1796, and appears on Middlesex 1009. In this issue's "Token Tales" R.C. Bell tells the story of Dimsdale, Dunstan, Cook, and other unlikely personalities involved in the Garrat "elections". The cover illustration of Dimsdale is provided by Bill Clark. Check his website <http://www.mayorofgarratt.com/html/mayors.html> for more information.

Token Tales

Election of Mayors of Garrat

By R. C. Bell

Newcastle Upon Tyne, England

The hamlet of Garrat lay on the road between Wandsworth and Tooting. Lysons writing in 1792 remarked that it consisted of about fifty houses, but it grew until it became incorporated into Wandsworth. Its site is still indicated by 'Garrett Lane', 'Garrett Green', and 'Garret Hill'.

"The Gentleman's Magazine" for 1781 contains an account of the origin of a curious local custom. About thirty years earlier a part of Wandsworth Common adjoining Garrat Lane was being encroached upon, and a number of neighboring inhabitants formed a club to resist the loss of this public land.

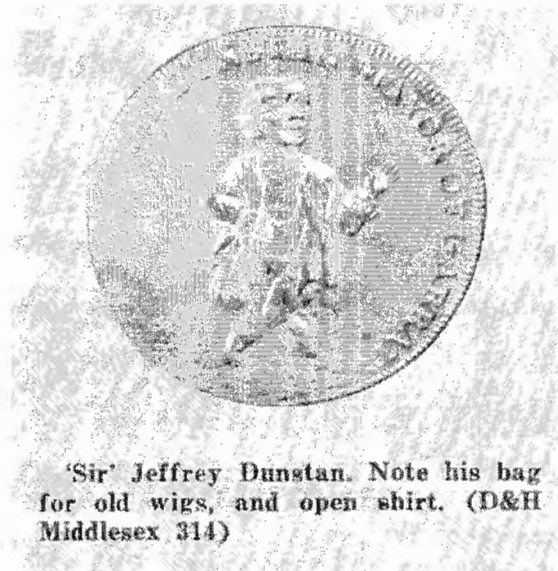
They met in a public house and when enough money had been raised, they brought an action against the encroacher in the name of the president or mayor of the club. They won their suit with costs, and thereafter the president was known as the Mayor of Garrat. The lawsuit coincided with a general parliamentary election, and in a spirit of parody the club decided to elect its mayor to office at each parliamentary election in similar style.

The earliest record of a mayor being chosen was in 1747 when a 'clerk' and a 'recorder' issued from an imaginary Town Hall, and three candidates contested the honor: Lord Twankum (John Gardiner, a grave digger in the parish); Squire Blow me down (Willis, a waterman); and Squire Gubbins (Simmonds, a publican).

There were proper hustings at which an oath sworn on a brickbat was

administered to the electors, together with the qualification that the juror must have had an amour in the surrounding fields.

The candidates' speeches contained much rough wit, and in later elections were prepared by popular writers and leading politicians. In 1764 Foote dramatized this mock election in his "Mayor of Garrat" performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane.



'Sir' Jeffrey Dunstan. Note his bag for old wigs, and open shirt. (D&H Middlesex 314)

There were elections in 1761, 1763, 1768, etc. That in 1777 was notable for the victory of 'Sir' John Harper, a weaver and retailer of brick dust. In 1781 Sir John had six rivals: 'Sir' Jeffrey Dunstan (a wig maker); 'Sir' William Blaze; 'Sir' Christopher Dash'em (a waterman called Christopher Beachham); 'Sir' William Swallow-tail (William Cock, a basket maker of Brentford); 'Sir' John Gnawpost; and

'Sir' Thomas Nameless (of reputation unmentionable).

A surprise item in the procession was a man in full armor, this champion being none other than Jem Anderson, a breeches-maker of Wandsworth, and a wonderful humorist.

The carriage of Sir William Swallow-tail was built of wicker by his own hands to his design, and was drawn by four high hollow-backed horses, ridden by dwarfish boys whimsically dressed as postilions. In allusion to the American war two tarred and feathered footmen rode before the carriage; the coachman wore a wicker hat, and Sir William himself maintained his mock dignity in grotesque array, amidst hilarious applause.

Sir John Harper made his grand entry through Wandsworth into Garrat in a phaeton and six bays, with postilions in scarlet and silver, surrounded by thousands of supporters, and was declared the Mayor of Garrat. He died before the next election in 1784, which was won by the most famous of all the mayors, 'Sir' Jeffrey Dunstan, his armorial bearings being four wigs, with a quart pot as a crest.

Sir Jeffrey was a foundling, left as a baby on the doorstep of the church warden of St. Dunstons in the east-hence his name of Dunstan. He grew up rickety and deformed in a workhouse, and at the age of 12 was apprenticed to a greengrocer for nine years, but ran away to Birmingham before his time was completed. He returned to London in 1776, and soon afterwards married, having two daughters who grew into fine young women.

Dunstan was squalid and filthy in his dress, and earned his living by buying and selling old wigs, accompanied by an ass with one ear. He

was a familiar figure in the street of London with a bag over his shoulder filled with wigs and other acquisitions, the latter once earning him a term in gaol for petty theft; and accompanied by a swarm of boys and curious persons, whom he entertained with sallies of wit, shrewd sayings and smart repartee; and from whom, without begging, he collected enough to maintain his dignity as mayor.



St. Mary's, Whitechapel. (D&H Middlesex 642)

More than a hundred thousand people gathered at the Garrat elections, traveling in carts, hackney coaches and carriages, on horseback, ass-back and on shanks' pony, choking up all the roads from London to Garrat. One of Sir Jeffrey's speeches has been preserved – an extraordinary mixture of satire, buffoonery and biting comment on the events and personalities of the day:

My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

A landed property being the only unexceptionable qualification that entitles me to a seat in the august parliament of Great Britain, I presume my estate in the Isle of Mud will, in point of propriety, secure to me your votes and interests, to represent you in the ensuing parliament.

Ladies and gem'men, I propose, for the good of mankind, to anticipate a few promises like other great men, but which I will strictly adhere to, that is, as long as I find it's in my interest so to do.

First, in regard to his Majesty's want of money, I am determined to make him easy on that point – (Lord bless him!) – by abolishing the use of it entirely, and reducing the price of gold, it being the worst canker to the soul of man; and the only expedient I can think of to prevent bribery and corruption, an evil which all the great “big wigs” of Westminster cannot prevent, notwithstanding all their gravity and knowledge, as the late proceedings against governor Green Peas (probably Governor Warren Hastings) can fully testify.



'Sir' Harry Dimsdale (D&H Middlesex 1009)

Next, as my worthy constituents may be assured, I shall use all my honest

endeavors to get a majority in the house. I shall always take the popular side of the question; and to do all I can to oblige that jewel of a man, Sugarplum Billy (probably William Pitt, the prime minister), I shall assist him in paying off the national debt, without wetting a sponge. My scheme for this, ladies and gem'men, is to unmarry all those who choose it, on such terms as the minister shall think fit. This being a glorious opportunity for women of spirit to exert themselves, and regain their long lost empire over their husband's place; and this will greatly increase the influence of the crown, and vastly lower India bonds.

As I detest the idea of a placeman, I pledge myself not to accept of anything less than the government of Duck Island, or the bishoprick of Durham, for I am very fond of a clean shirt, and lawn sleeves I think look well; besides, the “sine qua non” is the thing I aim at, like other men. The India Company, too, I will convey from Leadenhall street to Westminster, and according to my own “Wig” principles, I will create all the directors' and nabobs' titles, and besides, show them how to get what they have long aimed at – the way to Botany Bay (transportation for life). I shall likewise prove the Excise Office to be the greatest smuggle in the nation, for they smuggles the ground from the public on which their office stands, and for which I shall conjure up old Gresham's ghost, to read them a lecture upon thieving.

Like the great men, I pledge my honor, life and fortune that I will remove all heavy taxes, and by a glorious scheme, contrived by me and my friend Lord George Gordon, I shall, by a philosophical and aristocratical thermometer, or such-like hydraulics, discover the longitude among the Jews

of Duke's Place, and the secret of Masonry.

City honors I never courted, nor would I give an Old Wig to be drawn in idle state through Cheapside's foggy air on a ninth of November. No, I would rather sit by the side of my great friend Mr. Fox, in the Duke of Devonshire's coach, and make another coalition, or go with him to India, and be a governor's great man; for:

Hated by fools, and fools to hate,
Was always Jeffrey Dunstan's fate.

Through my Lord George has turned Jew (see World Coins 1966, page 834), and wears a broom about his chin, I never intend to do so until his informer is dead, or the time elapsed of his imprisonment in the county castle, (Newgate Prison in the heart of London), when we shall both go into Duke's Place, and be sworn true friends; then woe be to the informing busy bookseller of Spitalfields, who was lately turned out of the Snogo for eating pork with the rind on. Depend upon it his windows shall clatter more Hebrew than be ever understood. All this shall be done by me, in spite of him. Yes, by me, your humble servant,

Sir Jeffrey Dunstan, M.P.



St. Peter's Church, Cornhill. (D&H Middlesex 575)

With the passage of time the import of many allusions and subtle satire has been lost, but this speech may serve as an example of the quality and style of the addresses delivered by the burlesque characters partaking in the Election at Garrat.

Dunstan was no respecter of authority, and his jokes at the corruption and compromises of power were so severe that in 1793 he was tried, convicted, and imprisoned for 'seditious expressions'.

Between elections Sir Jeffrey earned his living traipsing the streets with his ass, a sack slung over his back and his hands clapped to his mouth shouting in a droll fashion, "Old wigs-wigs-wigs" in every doorway. Some he sold privately, the rest went to the dealers in rag-fair or to curriers who used them for cleaning waste off leather.

Sir Jeffrey was a wag as well as a comic and his grotesque appearance, being the knock-kneed dwarf with his shirt open to the waist, made him particularly eligible for political burlesque; the 'Sir' was part of the farce, and he was treated with saturnalian respect. At one time he was employed by Thomas Hall, the proprietor of the piece shown on 144, to accompany the latter's exhibition of stuffed animals as a huckster when it was on display at the Bartholomew Fair.

At the height of his popularity Dunstan was persuaded to appear on the stage at the Haymarket Theater in the part of "Doctor Last." The announcement drew a crowded house, but in spite of careful tutoring, when the curtain rose Sir Jeffrey's heart failed, and he faltered on until the hisses of the audience finally dismissed him from the boards. Everyman to his own meat: Sir Jeffrey's eloquence and wit at hustings

deserted him on the stage, and his first appearance was his last.

In the election of 1795 Sir Jeffrey was defeated by 'Sir' Harry Dimsdale. This success was disputed by the supporters of 'Sir' George Cook, a green grocer and oyster merchant, but the objection was overruled.

Sir Harry was a dwarf and almost as deformed as his predecessor, but he lacked Sir Jeffrey's keen sense of humor, and appears to have been little better than an idiot who sold muffins and dealt in tinware in the neighborhood of St. Anne's, Soho. At his election Sir Harry wore an old and tawdry court suit, several sizes too large for him and a gigantic cocked hat.



The Market Cross, Ipswich. (D&H Suffolk 35)

Mention should be made of another notable, John Jones, the Master of Horse at four of these elections. He rode on the largest gray horse that could be found, in the full regimentals of the Surrey yeomanry, grey, blue, and red, with a cap on his head 23 inches high and bearing in his hand a sword seven feet long and four inches wide. His boots were up to his hips, embellished with wooden spurs 13 inches long, the steel rowels being three inches in diameter while his horse's mane was plaited with ears of corn to denote a

plentiful harvest and a fall in the price of bread.

The Garrat Cavalry, of which John Jones was the commander, consisted of forty boys dressed in flannel uniforms apeing those of the Surrey yeomanry. They wore enormous cockades of wood shavings, and rode astraddle horses of all sizes; the smallest boys on the largest mounts, and the largest boys on the smallest. It was their duty to 'protect' the candidates in the procession, and to 'preserve the freedom of the election'.



'Sir' George Cook (D&H Surrey 11).

Sir Jeffrey Dunstan did not long survive his defeat in the election of 1796. A few months later he called one evening at the Sign of the Red Lion, a house of low repute opposite the London hospital. Here he was plied with free drink until he was completely befuddled,

and then taken home and left on the doorstep, where he was found dead in the morning.

There was a strong suspicion that the free drink had been drugged and that he had been murdered by resurrection men, as the anatomists were eager to obtain his misshapen body. One of the resurrectionists tried to stop the burial by pretending he was a relative from Ireland, come to claim the body, but the fraud was detected.

An attempt was then made to steal the body from the room in which it lay, and it was half out of the window before the alarm was raised. A neighboring brewer then posted guards on the corpse, and arranged for a grave ten feet deep to be dug close to the north wall of the watch house of St. Mary's Whitechapel, where the body now lies. The head of the coffin undermines the church rail and the public footpath. His wife lies at his feet, and one of his daughters at his side.

Sir Harry Dimsdale died during his term of office, and when at the next general election the local publicans withdrew their financial support for the burlesque, it was abandoned. An unsuccessful revival was attempted in 1826.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Charles Dickens describes the activities of a "Resurrection Man" [a polite term for a body snatcher] in A Tale of Two Cities Chapter 14. "The Honest Tradesman".

Jerry Cruncher and his young son follow a funeral procession to the graveyard, then make a stop at a surgeon's office. Upon arriving home Mr. Cruncher tells his wife he will be going "fishing" that night and leaves after midnight with his "fishing tackle", including a rope, chain, large sack and a crowbar.

His young son curiously follows him and observes Mr. Cruncher and two other "fishermen" working in the graveyard. They raise the coffin and pry it open. At that point the young man runs home realizing there will be no fish for breakfast.

The next day the son questions his father asking what a resurrection man is. Mr. Cruncher replies that it is a tradesman. "What's his goods, father?" is the next question. "Person's bodies ain't it, father?" continues the persistent boy.

When his father admits that it is so, the lad responds "Oh father, I should so like to be a Resurrection-Man when I'm quite grown up". [M.G.]



Chelmsford (D&H Essex 5 - 8c)¹

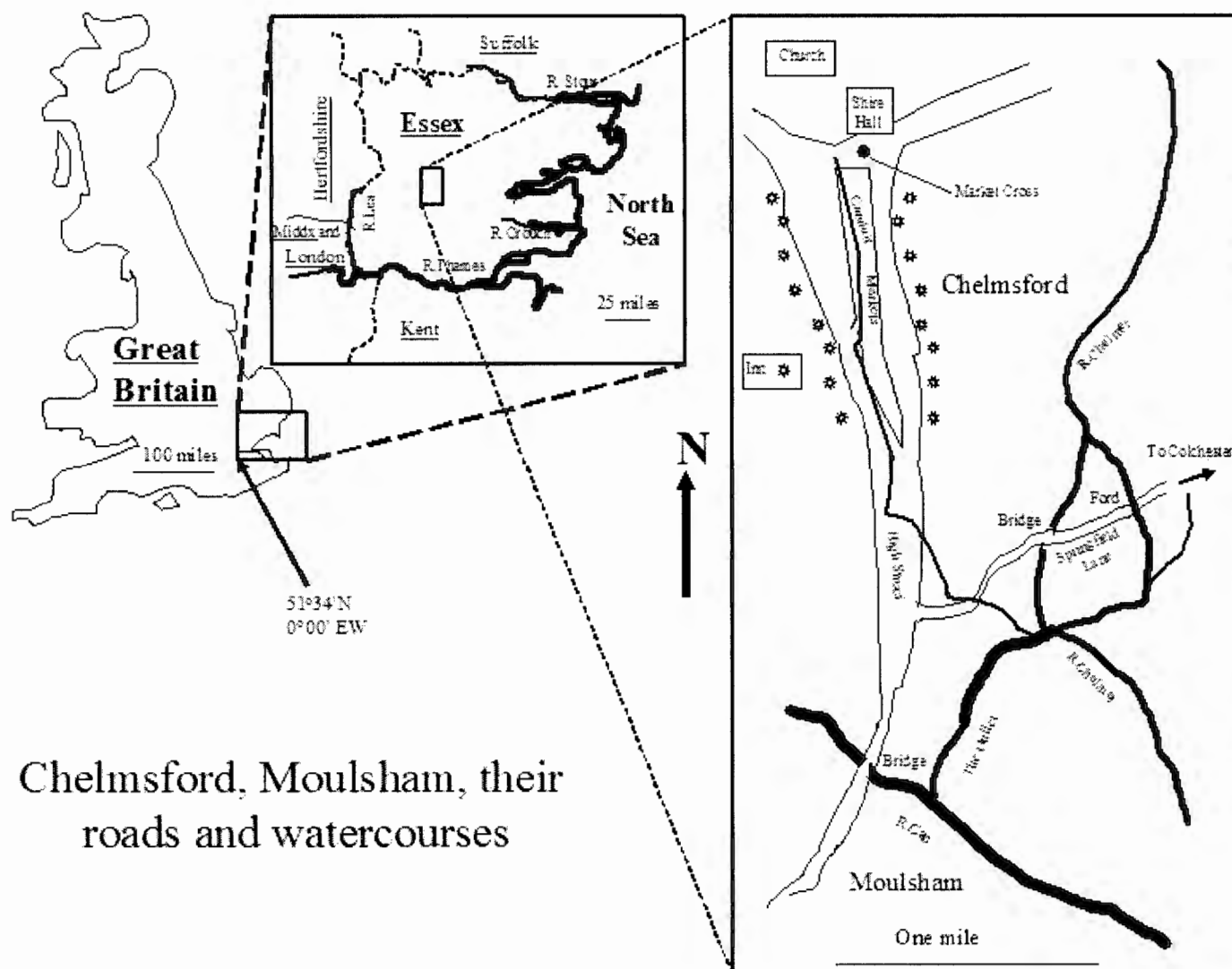
Tony Fox

The town of Chelmsford is in the centre of Essex. It is a medium-sized town, which has grown to surround bridges across the Rivers Cam and Chelmer. These bridges carry the ancient London to Colchester road.²

The Bishop of London founded Chelmsford in about 1199-1202. He used a piece of land in the southwestern corner of his large agricultural estate, which was immediately to the North of the two river crossings. This was simply a financial investment. A town with a market, on a major road and in a strategic location at an important river crossing, would generate rents and taxes that would far exceed the harvests that could be gathered from a relatively small piece of agricultural land. It must be remembered that the market at Romford (which we met when discussing the Havering Ha'penny) was still two centuries in the future, and there was no other market within 20 miles or more. And, indeed, this is how it turned out to be.

On the other side of the rivers was a village called Moulsham. It is far older. The place-name is Anglo-Saxon (say, 900 AD or so), but excavations have proven this to be the site of the small Roman town called *Caesaromagus*. People were living in what is now Moulsham about 1000 years before Chelmsford was begun. This well-established village of Moulsham was added into a new parish that was carved out the new town, and the new church was placed on high ground to the North of the site of the market. The people of Moulsham would now be expected to support financially a new church that was further to walk to. But this was a deft manoeuvre by the Bishop for another reason: even though the church parishes were under his jurisdiction, Moulsham village itself was part of the secular estate owned by his principal rival, the Abbot of Westminster. As a result of all these 13th century manoeuvres, an interesting side-issue is whether there is a lost Anglo-saxon church yet to be discovered at Moulsham. This might be expected at a place where the ruins of Roman, brick-built military buildings would have formed an attractive builders' quarry; Essex is a relatively stone-less county, and close inspection of hundreds of its parish churches reveal re-used roman bricks (or *tesserae*, to use the correct phrase).

The strategic importance of *Caesaromagus* is obvious. This is roughly half way along the great Roman road between the two most important Roman towns in Britain: *Londinium* (now London) and *Camulodunum* (now Colchester).³ Travelling intervals of 30 - 35 miles between pairs of Roman towns represent a day's journey; this is an international constant in reasonably flat terrain. For example, the intervals are about the same between the Franciscan missions along the Baja California and southern California (USA) coasts. A horse is a horse, of course, even when more than seventeen centuries elapse !



Chelmsford, Moulsham, their
roads and watercourses

Chelmsford Shire Hall



Derek Blyth



The Shire Hall (1789-91, John Johnson architect on a D&H Essex no. 5b.

The “new” mediaeval street plan of Chelmsford ran northwards from the rivers, and was triangular. While this responds to the course of the River Chelmer to some degree, this is nonetheless a common design for mediaeval towns with marketplaces (e.g., Chipping Ongar, Essex or St.Alban’s, Hertfordshire). By the 1650s, there were at least 14 inns around this triangle. The late Hilda Grieve BEM² researched this street plan in detail, and produced a complete directory for Chelmsford in June 1787. Thus, we know the precise location and inhabitants of more than 150 buildings just seven years prior to the date on the Conders, including the one Chelmsford tradesman confirmed by an edge inscription (see below).

Turning to the Conders themselves, D&H finds two obverses and three reverses for Chelmsford, with none in the Addenda.¹ The obverse of Essex No.5 carries an image of the Shire Hall, which still stands. This five-bay, four-square building was built opposite the site of the mediaeval market cross in 1789-1791, i.e., just in time for a Conder dated 1794 ! The architect was John Johnson, who was also the county surveyor. The building owes much to Adam, and three rectangular coade-stone reliefs by Bacon (the elder) are beneath its pediment, representing commerce, industry, and justice.⁴ These were doubtless intended to inspire those attending the County administration and criminal courts which were held here for the next two centuries. The building still accommodates modern-day magistrates, although the more senior judges have moved into a new building further to the north-east. The mediaeval market cross which stood in front of the Shire Hall has now gone, and the site is now known as Tindal Square.

There can be no doubt that D&H Essex no.5 was originally intended for use in Chelmsford. Its edge is inscribed “PAYABLE AT CLACHAR & Co.’S CHELMSFORD ESSEX. William Clachar was a Chelmsford publisher, bookbinder, bookseller, printer and agent for the Sun Fire Insurance Company. His large property stood on the location of what is now 86-87 High Street. This property reached all the way through to form nos. 10-11 Back Street, which included a small theatre, and had formerly been known as “Walmisford’.² The property was destroyed by fire in 1811, and the New Road was built through this gap in 1839.

D&H Essex issues 5a - 5e differ only in their edge inscriptions. No. 5a says: “Richard Bacon, Cocky Lane”. There is no such lane on any surviving map of Chelmsford, and no such trader in the 1787 directory. However, the Cock Inn stood immediately next to the Moulsham Bridge between (at least) 1759 - 1888.² It is possible that “Cocky Lane” refers to this, in a not uncommon form of Essex conventional speech. As for the others, D&H nos. 5b - 5c refer to places as far afield as Hull, London, Bristol, and Lancaster. Number 5d has “Current everywhere” while 5e has no edge inscription at all. With no.5a being doubtful, nos. 5b – 5d seem even less likely to have been intended as currency in Chelmsford.

Nos. 6 - 7 are essentially mules of two reverses. On no. 6, The Shire Hall is retained, but the reverse now shows the same design as that used at Braintree (Essex no.4).⁵ The phrase “Payable at London” on the edge of no. 6 merely suggests economy of design, and not pocket change on Chelmsford High Street. The edge of no.6a is plain.

Nos.7 - 7b have a reverse design which is similar in concept to that on no.6 but not the same design. This standing figure is also found at Norfolk (nos. 23 and 24). One edge variety (Essex no.7a) refers to Gosport (which is in Hampshire). The maritime design is certainly more appropriate for Gosport than Chelmsford (the former being a Royal Navy dockyard to this day). In contrast, Chelmsford and Braintree are places with strong, landlubber traditions of arable agriculture, county administration, and weaving wool.

The D&H Essex nos. 8 - 8c replace the Shire Hall with a reverse of a dove flying beneath a cornucopia. This design is also found among the Hampshire (D&H 11 - 11e), Rochdale (Lancashire no. 150), and Norfolk (no.26) issues. While no.8 refers again to our unconfirmed Richard Bacon on Cocky Lane, nos 8a and 8b are unspecific. The edge on the Essex no.8c refers specifically to a tradesman in Chichester, West Sussex.

Net, it seems reasonable to allocate D&H no.5 truly to Chelmsford. D&H nos. 5b- 5d, 6, 7 -- 7b, 8a, and 8c were definitely not intended for issue at Chelmsford. Nos.5a and 8 ("Cocky Lane"), and all those without any edge inscriptions remain unproven cases.

Today, Chelmsford is an important retail centre, is still the seat of the county government, and has light industry in its suburbs, including the historically significant Marconi factory. In 1908, the large mediaeval parish church of Chelmsford, on its high ground a little to the north of the town centre, was elevated to cathedral status, now standing at the centre of a new Diocese whose boundaries are more or less the same as that of the historical County of Essex, regardless of the encroachment of the London suburbs in the southwest of the County.

This survey of the Essex Conders will be completed by the next article in this series. Predictably, it will be about Braintree.

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2. Grieve H. *Chelmsford: A town, its people, and its past*. Chelmsford: Essex Record Office (in two volumes).
3. Brinson JGS. In: Richmond IA (ed) *Roman Essex. Victoria County History of Essex*. 3: 63-71.
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**Four New Varieties of Camac Tokens:
Dublin 78 *Bis*, Dublin 87 *Bis*,
Dublin 112 *Bis* & Dublin 119 *Bis***

Gregg A. Silvis

**Harp with Seven Strings
Head under AC**

1. Dublin 78 *Bis*

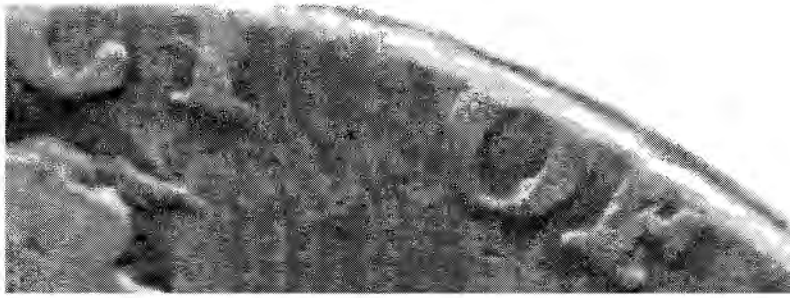
Obverse: Unlisted. Ground on left to C. L of **PARLIAMENT** is slightly above the R. The 9 is slightly above the 2, and 792 are closely spaced. A perhaps more diagnostic feature is the remnants of what appears to be either an "I" or a "1" between ACT and OF.

Reverse: Unlisted. The AC of the first **CAMAC** is low. F of **HALFPENNY** is below P.

Edge: No. 1. The AT is barely visible, but one can make out the top of the T.

Reverse Rotation: Normal





Remnants of an "I" or a "1"

2. Dublin 87 *Bis*

Obverse: Unlisted. Ground on left to middle of N. Space between 17 and 92.

Reverse: Unlisted. **H** of **HALFPENNY** formed from two **I**'s joined with a crossbar. **C** of cypher further from **CAMAC** than on Dublin 87.

Edge: Plain

Reverse Rotation: Normal



Harp with Eight Strings
Head under A

3. Dublin 112 *Bis*

Obverse: As 112. Note recutting of the 9.

Reverse: As 151. The left serif on the right downstroke of **M** is missing. **E** of **HALFPENNY** is smaller than the **N**.

Edge: No. 2

Reverse Rotation: Normal



Recut 9



Defective M

**Harp with Eight Strings
Head under AC**

4. Dublin 119 *Bis*

Obverse: Unlisted. Large **O**'s in **INCORPORATED** and **OF**. First **O** of **INCORPORATED** over **R**.

Reverse: Unlisted. Top of **C** of cypher points to **D**. **C**'s of **CAMAC** are low. **H** of **HALFPENNY** formed from two **I**'s joined with a crossbar. Space between **LF** of **HALFPENNY**. **FP** of **HALFPENNY** touch.

Edge: Plain

Reverse Rotation: Normal



I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Jerry Bobbe in the confirmation of these new varieties as well as his guidance in the determination of appropriate Dalton & Hamer numbers.

CTCC MEMBER MEDALS

Since receiving our 2005 club member medals with the last issue, several members have asked questions about the medals and their history. Some information is available on our website [<http://conderclub.org/medals.html>] but a further explanation may be useful .

Member medals are not a guaranteed benefit of membership but are produced as the club treasury and other circumstances allow. The medals are 38 mm in diameter, numbered on the edge, and have been produced in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, and 2005. Each year has a common reverse “swan” design based on Middlesex 174 that commemorates the club’s founding in 1996. Each year has had a bronze or copper medal distributed to every member and a silver version sold separately. A gilt version was produced for sale in 2004 and 2005. A different obverse die has been used each year with a Conder token related design. Mintages each year have been very limited and none have been restruck.



image by Joel Spingarn

The 1999 medal is the first in the series and is the only issue that is not dated with the year of production. The familiar image of Lady Godiva is based on the Warwickshire token series. Mintage of the bronze proof version was 250 and 50 silver proofs were also made.



image by Gary Siro

Middlesex 239 was used as a model for the 2000 medal. The bronze proof mintage was 250 and 25 silver proofs were made.



image by Gary Sriro

The 2001 design memorializes our club's founder, Wayne Anderson, who passed away in 1999. Middlesex 24 was used as the basic design. Mintage was 250 bronze proofs and 26 silver proofs. Due to a die error, this design also exists dated 2002 with Wayne's dates as 1941-1991. Twenty bronze and eight silver error medals were preserved and sold to members.

Club medals were not produced in 2002 and 2003. As mentioned above, 2001 medals erroneously dated 2002 do exist.



image by Harold Welch

A Druid reminiscent of the Anglesey series was selected for the 2004 medal along with the traditional "swan" reverse. Mintage was 250 bronze proofs and 25 silver proofs. For the first time gilt [gold plated] medals were made with a mintage of 10.



image by Mike Grogan

Our most recent medal design is based on Herefordshire 1 with the “swan” reverse. This medal was struck on copper planchets with an uncirculated finish to resemble a Conder token fresh from the dies. Silver and gilt proofs were produced maintaining the appearance of presentation pieces. Mintages were 235 copper, 25 silver, and 15 gilt.

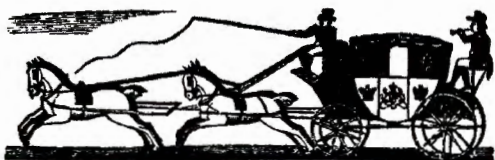
For convenience I have referred to the swan design as the reverse and the side dated with year of issue as the obverse. I realize this could be debated and is not meant to be definitive.

I hope this brief history will help answer member’s questions and enhance their enjoyment of these rare and beautiful medals.

Michael Grogan



Sir Jeffrey Dunstan, sometime Mayor of Garratt
Image courtesy of Bill Clark, mayorofgarratt.com



From the Mailbag

Mike Grogan, Editor, The 'Conder' Token Collector's Journal

Possibly the comment below may be of interest for the Journal.

Epping shilling token Tony Fox must be right in suggesting it could be a Red Deer on the Epping shilling token, the cover illustration of the Summer 2005 issue. Given a choice between Red, Roe and Fallow Deer (p.12) only a Red Deer stag could have such antlers. Those of Roe Deer are quite small, with few points, and Fallow Deer have palmate antlers.

Andrew T Macmillan

Mike:

Thank-you. Just what I wanted! Perhaps you could add this as a short letter from Andrew MacMillan in the next issue.

FYI:- I have since discovered that red deer live rather nearer than in Scotland, namely in Richmond Park, just to the SW of London, and about 15-20 miles from Epping as the crow flies, I should think.

Tony



Essex 1b
image by Gary Sriro

The David Spence Collection, Part II – Britain's most valuable token auction

by Peter Preston-Morley

The alarm clock tells my fuzzy brain it's 6am, Thursday September 29th; and within seconds my 6 year-old daughter bounds into the room. "Daddy," she says, clutching a copy of George Berry's *Taverns and Tokens of Pepys' London* tightly to her chest. "Get up quickly, it's token day today! I've got a book here for you that you'll need for your work."

Reassuring her that I didn't need the book and she could put it in her schoolbag to refer to as part of her Key Stage 1 project on Samuel Pepys and the Great Fire of London (I'm sure we never learnt such esoterics in my day at that age!), my thoughts turned to the day ahead – a token day indeed.

As was the case last year, the dispersal of the second part of the important collection of 18th century tokens formed by the late Dr David Spence of Pittsburgh had brought a number of collectors and dealers to London, several from North America. The offering this time, of over 1,900 Conder tokens in 462 lots, represented the largest and most valuable element of the collection and had been particularly well received, especially the standalone catalogue. Mail bids had flowed in steadily and, despite the fact that the economic climate on both sides of the Atlantic is less favourable than it was in October 2004, with consequently less money around, I felt sure that the day would go well.

At 10am the first lot, a VF Oppenheim halfpenny (Middlesex 398), was knocked down for £220 (£253 with premium, or US\$450). Two hours and 40 minutes later, every lot had sold and the hammer total stood at £117,985 (US\$210,013), or £135,683 (US\$241,516) with the buyer's premium added on – almost £29,000 (US\$51,620) more than the upper limit of the pre-sale estimates.

Once again the tokens were well dispersed. Thirty-six individual buyers were successful, 19 in the room and 17 with commissions. Last year, no less than 49 people who left mail or internet bids with DNW were unsuccessful at securing anything, a huge ratio of failure in the UK; this year, that number was gratifyingly cut to 29.

Virtually all the first half of the auction comprised the remaining balance of the Middlesex/London element of the collection, which accounted for £60,410 (£69,472, or US\$123,660) of the total. Surprisingly, to my mind at least, the two highest prices were paid for pieces of a medallic nature, the like of which I consciously separated out from the tokens per se. A UK private collector had his persistence rewarded in a battle with a book bidder over one of the finest known white metal medals of Thomas Paine, 1793 (DH 209), but it took no less than £1,750 (£2,013, or US\$3,585) to secure it. Jerry Bobbe saw off another book bid to take away an attractive but lacquered specimen of the Daniel Eaton Trial medal, 1794 (DH 203) for £1,100 (£1,265, or US\$2,250), while a good group of Lutwyche's anti-slavery halfpence and farthings was so much fancied that it took the best of no less than ten substantial mailbids to secure it for £1,250 (£1,438, or US\$2,560). Elsewhere, some of the genuine rarities were keenly fought for, with one of Christopher Ibberson's 'small boar' halfpence (DH 339) being bought by an American commission bidder for £950 (£1,093, or US\$1,945) and a Thomas Hall 'small toucan' halfpenny (DH 318) commanding £650 (£748,

or US\$1,330) from another North American book buyer. A most attractive silver proof halfpenny of the musical instrument maker William Forster (DH 302b) needed £660 (£759, or US\$1,300). No less than 77 lots were devoted to the tokens of Thomas Spence, the best such group to appear at auction since the Noble sale. Keenly in demand, they grossed £21,855 (£25,133, or US\$44,737), with the benchmark classic, a Mendoza DH 785, realising £420 (£483, or US\$860).

Numerous rarities abounded in the county series from Norfolk to Yorkshire, with the collection being particularly strong in the Midlands counties of Staffordshire and Warwickshire. The piece which graced the front cover of the catalogue, a uniface trial for Richard Wright's Lichfield penny, Staffordshire 1, was chased from £1,000 to £2,900 (£3,335, or US\$5,935); to the illustrious pedigree of Batty, Norman and Hamer can now be added the name of Jerry Bobbe! Another uniface trial, that of the Birmingham penny of Thomas Welch (DH Warwickshire 22), went to the same buyer for £1,300 (£1,495, or US\$2,660), while the third significant rarity in this auction, the unique Farnell/Sweet Coalbrookdale trial halfpenny (DH Shropshire 5), received three mailbids in excess of the lower pre-sale estimate and has found a new home for £2,600 (£2,990, or US\$5,320).

Two significant rarities from Bath, Somerset, sold to private collectors in the room. A previously unpublished gilt mule halfpenny of William Gye made £880 (£1,012, or US\$1,800), while a Payne & Turner penny (DH 7), the only specimen I personally have handled, brought £800 (£920, or US\$1,640). Another token to make £880 hammer was a plain edge penny of the Tamworth printer John Harding (DH Staffordshire 9a); Harding's inscribed edge example (DH 9) cost £640 (£736, or US\$1,310). His neighbour, the coin collector Francis Blick, issued a handful of private tokens in silver and one of them (DH 23) was knocked down for £1,000 (£1,150, or US\$2,050). In the Suffolks, Richard Gladdle bought an example of the ever-popular Thomas Miller Bungay issue (DH 20) for £860 (£989, or US\$1,760) and a silver proof halfpenny of James Conder (DH 35), for £600 (£690, or US\$1,230); oddly enough, Conder's regular series of pennies, DH 10 to 13, sold for inexpensive prices, DH 10 for as little as £90 (£103, or US\$185). Surrey got off to a flying start with a particularly attractive Bermondsey Spa Garden halfpenny of Thomas Keys (DH 4) being chased to £900 (£1,035, or US\$1,840), and an extremely rare Lambeth penny (DH 2) achieving £1,000 (£1,150, or US\$2,050).

Other pieces of note among the later lots were a Bolton Castle penny (DH Yorkshire 1) at £840 (£966, or US\$1,720) and a Birmingham Associations medal, 1798 (DH Warwickshire 29) at £820 (£943, or US\$1,680). The Atkins/Sykes Sheffield Constitutional halfpenny, 1792 (DH Yorkshire 61), sold for £190 in 1986, now needed £700 (£805, or US\$1,435), while a good group of Greatheed Petition medals of 1797 (DH Warwickshire 7-9) yielded copper examples of DH 7 and 8 which brought £760 (£874, or US\$1,555) and £800 (£920, or US\$1,640) respectively.

Repeating last year's exercise, how does the hammer price of £117,985 (US\$210,013) shake out? Basically, £77,355 (US\$137,690)-worth (327 lots), or just over 65% of this portion of the collection by value, was bought on the floor. North American buyers, including Bill McKivor (73 lots), Randy Weir (32 lots), Jerry Bobbe (17) and others collectively accounted for 127 lots and £27,875 (US\$49,620). UK buyers, including Richard Gladdle (83 lots), Baldwin (27) and Simon Monks (24) bought 200 lots between them for £49,480

(US\$88,075). Of the 17 successful commission buyers, nine were from the UK, buying a mere 20 lots between them, but the remaining eight from North America were particularly successful and secured a total of 115 lots.

So the 'Conder' market has absorbed the most valuable auction of tokens ever held in the UK, even though there was a feeling, shared by others I talked to afterwards, that the budgets of those collectors attending the sale were somewhat exhausted towards the end of the auction. Hardly surprising, when one thinks about it. That said, the quick-witted were able to pick up numerous bargains and the end result demonstrates the continuing healthy demand for the series on both sides of the Atlantic. Long may it continue.

"Mr Pepys had very long hair," announced Annamay the following morning, shortly after the alarm clock had performed its usual ritual. "Did he make his own money, like the man on the cover of your book," she added, referring to the Richard Greene trial. Having been assured that he didn't, she declared "well he should have, that's what important people did back then." A budding token collector in years to come, perhaps?!

Footnote: Part III of the Spence collection, comprising Wales (including Monmouthshire), Scotland and Ireland, together with the numismatic library, will be sold on 21 June 2006.



Samuel Pepys

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From : On Blanchard's Aerial Voyage To the Continent

The world to amaze and keep fancy alive,
How nobly commences the year eighty-five
In Ether's wild field, amongst those who ascend
To fetch news from the clouds, and for glory contend
Eclipsed the fair fame of Lunardi must be
For Blanchard and Jefferies fly over the sea.

Store of wealth to the man, in an English Balloon
Who carries the first pattern-card to the moon.

From Dover's high cliffs how majestic the sight
For sure such a scene would to gods give delight
How wonderous to see of bold mortals a pair
Ride over the waves in a Chariot of Air
Then tell me what heart can amazement refrain
When men start from Earth and fly over the Main!

[chorus]

Reference: John Freeth by John Horden

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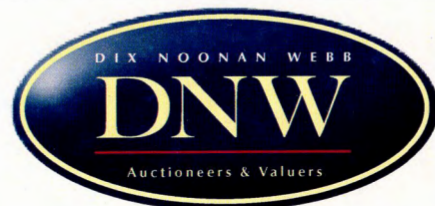
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